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University Relations
Mark Pomerleau
Dir., Information Services

DAYTON, OHIO 45469
(513) 229-3241/3242

university of dayton

40 Tuition Scholarships

NSF SUPPORTS RE-TRAINING
WOMEN AS ENGINEERS

DAYTON, Ohio, August 30, 1976 --- The University of Dayton has received a grant of \$111,944 from the National Science Foundation for the design and implementation of a one and a half year late entry program for women who are interested in moving toward careers in chemical or electrical engineering.

The Fast Track Late Entry Program is designed for women who earned undergraduate degrees in math, chemistry and physics between 1961 and 1974 and would like to respond to the current demand for women in engineering. The academic part of the program will begin in January, 1977. The grant will be used to sponsor scholarships for the approximately 40 women who will enroll. Tentative deadline for application is October 30.

Students will be enrolled full time in one of two paths which will lead either to a career in chemical or electrical engineering. Women with math, science, chemistry or commensurate backgrounds are being sought, according to Carol M. Shaw, associate professor in the School of Engineering at UD and coordinator of the program, because their academic background would facilitate a transfer to a closely related engineering discipline. "The demand is there," she explains. "In 1974 women comprised 1.6 per cent of the engineering graduates, twenty per cent of the chemistry graduates, eight per cent of the physics graduates and 41 per cent of the mathematics graduates. This historic pattern of few women engineering graduates combined with the current demand for engineers provides an excellent opportunity for those women interested in an engineering career."

The program will begin with a week-long session aimed at psychological motivation and re-enforcement of the participant's decision to obtain credentials in the engineering profession. Panel discussions will focus on problems encountered by professional women in contemporary society. Women with experience as professional engineers will be available for role model identification.

Prof. Shaw prepared another proposal for a \$9,940 grant, also approved by the National Science Foundation, for a weekend workshop slated in February when women from Ohio colleges will be presented with the options available to them in science and engineering.

UD was the the only one of 33 institutions to receive a grant for both the year long late entry program and the workshop. Program design, realizable objectives and U.D.'s School of Engineering's previous experience in related type programs and in recruiting women and minorities toward engineering careers were cited as reasons for the approval of the grant.

UD has been involved in a previous project with the Monsanto Research Corp. to re-train their personnel to become qualified chemical engineers. Prof. Shaw also has directed the Women in Engineering programs held for the past three summers on the UD campus. The workshops enabled high school age women to investigate the possibility of careers in engineering.

"Of course," said Prof. Shaw, "the test of all our programs is whether the people we educate can function as engineers. We have acquired enough experience in adult education and re-training to gain an insight into what education is needed for professional competence."